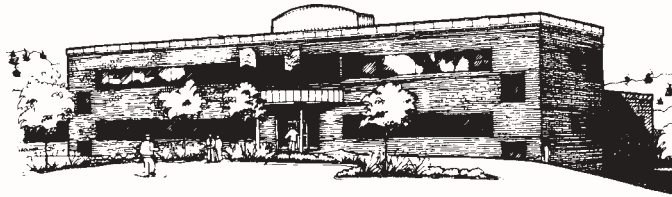


# The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



Spring 2005

Volume XXIV – Number 2

A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services

## ***"Training on the Leading Edge"***

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Dear New Hampshire Fire and Emergency Medical Service Members:

In 1990 as Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Portsmouth Fire Department I offered a Firefighter Level Three Certification program for the greater Seacoast area. The class had a very diverse group of individuals from many area fire departments. There was one firefighter I remember quite well; he was a member of the Dover Fire & Rescue, quite young and full of energy! His name...Chris DeWolf. Chris, as I first remember him, was full of ideas, always thinking a step ahead.

A few years later, after I had been appointed to my present position, Chris called again...he was working on a college course and needed to interview someone in a field appealing to the student. I was both honored and humbled to be the individual interviewed. I remember talking about fire training on a state level, regional level, and the national level...he wanted to be in the training field, and at that time he wanted to be training at the National Fire Academy, a very lofty, but attainable goal.

The saga went on, a few years later while attending the Fire-Rescue-EMS International Conference, I think in Dallas, I heard my name being called while walking through the exhibition hall...it was a sales representative for a fire service software company...it was Chris DeWolf. Again making a difference in the fire service, and wanting this "state of the art" software to be the product of choice in New Hampshire! I vividly remember his enthusiasm...but then again; everything he did was with utmost enthusiasm.

Time trudged forward...this time a phone call from the Fire & Emergency Television Network (FETN), wanting to film a recruitment and retention video at the New Hampshire Fire Academy. Who was making the call for FETN...you guessed it, Chris DeWolf. His love for his work with FETN was elevated, it was euphoric for him to be working in front of or directing the camera shots...he was making a difference...he was training and on a National level, just what he had aspired to when I was interviewed by him for his college course several years ago.

Chief Greenleaf said it best, Chris didn't just come in a room, he illuminated the room with his euphoric enthusiasm...he had reached his goal, and moved forward. I last saw Chris on December 9, 2004 when we discussed his new role as Lieutenant with the Newington Fire Department...he told me all the great things they were doing and will do, in the typical Chris DeWolf enthusiastic style.

Chris, you achieved your goal, you were taken from us way too soon, but your enthusiasm and desire for training and education will live forever. For all Christopher DeWolf has done for fire training and education in New Hampshire, we dedicate this edition of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services News! God Bless you!

Sincerely,

Rick Mason



Lieutenant  
Christopher R. DeWolf

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Thurs. of each month (except July-August) .....	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m. ....	NHFA
2nd Thurs. of each month .....	Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; preregistration required by 1st of month .....	NHFA
3rd Friday of each month .....	National Registry Exam for EMS at 9:00am .....	NHFA
Every month .....	Train-the-Trainers (watch for listings) .....	NHFA

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:** Watch for future listings

**FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**FIRE OFFICER PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS:**

05/05/05 .....	Firefighter I .....	NHFA
08/08/05 - 08/19/05 .....	Certified Career Firefighter .....	NHFA

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**INDUSTRIAL TRAINING:** Watch for future listings

**NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:**

05/12/05 & 05/13/05 .....	Drivers/Operator All Vehicle
08/08/05 & 08/14/05 .....	Drivers/Operator All Vehicle

**TERRORISM PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

**TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAMS:** Watch for future listings

## Visiting Committee

The State of New Hampshire, Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services, and the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission is seeking individuals to sit on a visiting committee to review the Driver Operator Aerial Apparatus curriculum.

Individuals interested should be a certified fire instructor and possess Driver Operator Aerial Apparatus certification.

The committee will be tasked with reviewing the current curriculum and advising the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services and the New Hampshire Fire Standards Training Commission of the best way to meet the requirements of NFPA 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications.

Interested individuals should contact the Fire Academy as soon as possible. Please contact Dale Boyd, at 1-800-371-4503 x203.

## What's New in NHBEMS Education?

As part of the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) reorganization and long-term planning, the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board and the Bureau of EMS have been very busy with implementation strategies over the last 3 years. In Goal #2, EMS Education, Objective #4 we are charged to develop and institute an I/C Quality Improvement (QI) and Quality Assurance (QA) program. The NHBEMS Education Section has been actively working on projects revolving around this Objective, and has begun to implement QA and QI steps regarding EMS Instructor/Coordinator (I/C) activities and EMS Training Programs. Our major efforts have been threefold: 1 - training and licensing instructors, 2 - regular updates to the Instructor / Coordinator Handbooks, and 3 - quality assurance in EMS training programs.

NHBEMS currently has 124 licensed Instructor/Coordinators. The EMS Bureau has worked closely with the NH Fire Academy (NHFA), Bureau of Certification and Training in redeveloping and coordinating instructor training. Graduates of the Instructor Educational Methodology Program can now be eligible for consideration for Instructor recognition in EMS and/or Fire Services. The new instructor training program is currently in pilot program status. The first pilot has been completed and the second is being planned for later this year.

Our EMS Instructor/Coordinator handbooks undergo regular updating, and have become an excellent resource for Instructors. Bureau contact information, policies, rules, course paperwork, and exam information are just some of the features of this resource. Education staff is working on the next update, and should be in your mailboxes by early summer.

With regard to EMS training programs, as part of the QA development and outlined in a NHBEMS letter dated July 30, 2003, Instructor/Coordinators requesting Course Authorization numbers must also submit course outlines of dates and topics, and Clinical Affiliation information (for EMT-B, EMT-I and EMT-P new-entry training). In addition to requiring Course Outlines and Clinical/Field Affiliation reporting, we are conducting random audits of program paperwork. When auditing a program, in addition to reviewing any or all course files, we may also visit your training programs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Liza Burrill, at lburrill@safety.state.nh.us, or 603-752-7531.

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## TRAUMA DOCUMENTATION – Tip of the Month

### Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) Score – Motor Component

This month, we will take a closer look at Motor Response, since many providers have difficulty with the difference between “localizes” and “withdraws”. There is only a 1-point difference, *BUT* it is a very important difference! Often, the initial GCS plays a large role in the trauma team’s decision on how aggressive to be with the patients’ care in the trauma room. When in doubt, describe the patient’s exact response to the exact stimulus. Example: “when I rubbed his sternum he moaned and tried to move away from me”. This is an example of “withdraws”.

Assigned GCS Score	Descriptor	Patient's Response
6	Obeys commands	Follows simple commands, such as “squeeze my fingers”
5	Localizes pain	Pulls or pushes rescuer's hand away when rescuer delivers a painful stimulus
4	Withdraws to pain	Pulls all or part of the body away when rescuer delivers a painful stimulus
3	Flexion to pain	Flexes body inappropriately (“decorticate” or “abnormal flexion”)
2	Extension to pain	Body becomes rigid and extended (“decerebrate” or “abnormal extension”)
1	None	No motor response to pain

## EMS Field Services

The Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services has an active Field Services Section currently staffed with a Field Services Coordinator and two Field Services Representatives. Each has been assigned a primary role in one of three geographic areas of the state, but overlap responsibilities as needed.

The Field Services Section has developed presentations that can be requested and continues to develop new programs and update the existing ones.

Presentations for public groups are available that can be done as stand-alone programs or in conjunction with local agencies. These can be good public relation tools for EMS in general and for local services.

Programs are available for new and refresher EMS classes that introduce and update individuals on the New Hampshire EMS system. These are available to be presented by a staff member on request from any EMS instructor.

The Bureau of EMS also has professional displays that can be customized in a variety of ways. This can include photos and information from local squads. Arrangements can be made for use of the displays or to have a display on hand with a Field Service Representative for functions such as an open house.

Field Services has been at several high schools to explain careers in EMS and has requests to do more.

If you would like more information or would like to make use of the services available from Field Services, contact a Field Services Representative listed for your area. The list is available on the Bureau web site at <http://www.state.nh.us/safety/ems/index.html> or call 1-888-827-5367 from within New Hampshire, or at 603-271-4568.

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## New ALS Coordinator and 2005 Protocols Roll-Out

Vicki Blanchard, NREMT-P, EMSI, has joined the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) as the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Coordinator. Vicki has served Milford Ambulance for the last nine years and has been an active EMS Educator at the ALS level. By the time this makes publication the first of Vicki's official duties will be well into action, specifically the 2005 NH Local Option Patient Care Protocols rollout. This rollout is still under the "local option" protocol administration. Therefore, activities will be coordinated through the Medical Resource Hospital EMS Coordinator and Medical Director.

You can find the protocols and supportive training modules including:

- \* 2005 NH Local Option Patient Care Protocols
- \* Protocol Changes presentation
- \* New Medication presentation
- \* Mark 1 Kit presentation
- \* Intermediate Medication Module
- \* Intermediate Rhythms Module
- \* Sample Protocol Exam and answer key
- \* 2005 Approved Medication List
- \* New Medication Summary Sheets
- \* Spreadsheet of 2003 and 2005 Protocol Comparison

at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/ems/protocol.html>

Currently, HB 247 is before the state legislature, which would change our protocols from local option to state-wide, define prerequisites, place protocols in a specialized category of rule and provide the infrastructure and protection for Quality Assurance/Management activities. The language of this bill was drafted based on the recommendations from Commissioner Flynn's Ad Hoc Committee. This needs to complete the legislative process before we can take any action. We will keep the EMS community updated.

The Ementoring project involves preceptor mentoring through email communication between a "seasoned" paramedic and the new paramedic. This project began last year with positive feedback and it is our hope to further endorse the progression of the program.

In an effort to unify the Intermediate training outside of the 1985 Curriculum, the Bureau of EMS has made a solid commitment in 2005 to develop and implement an Intermediate Medication and Rhythms Recognition Module to standardize the training received for all Intermediates within the State of New Hampshire. It will provide a much needed cohesiveness and stability amongst our Intermediates.

For more information on any of the above please feel free to contact Vicki Blanchard at: [vblanchard@safety.state.nh.gov](mailto:vblanchard@safety.state.nh.gov) or 603-271-4568.

## Division Presents Scientific Poster at National Conference

In a first for the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) a Scientific Poster was accepted by the New England Surgical Society (NESS) for presentation at their annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec. The poster was titled "Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Associated Procedures in New Hampshire, 2001." The purpose of study was to "quantify the number of patients with TBI's requiring neurosurgical intervention and to determine whether they are being transferred to the appropriate hospital, particularly Level I and II Trauma Hospitals". On October 1, 2005, Fred von Recklinghausen, Research Coordinator at FST & EMS and John Sutton, MD, Chair of the Trauma Medical Review Committee and the Trauma Program at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center traveled to Montreal to represent the NH EMS community and defend the poster. Fred and Dr. Sutton worked alongside of Clay Odell, Trauma Coordinator and Michele Baker, Program Specialist in developing the poster and the presentation.

This data analyzed in preparation for this study revealed:

- \* There were 41 patients who had a severe TBI and a significant surgical procedure (the TBI definition here includes an Injury Severity Score of 16 or greater and a neurosurgical intervention.
- \* Males were 31 of 41 patients 75.6%
- \* Average age: 36.2
- \* Average ISS: 23
- \* Average Length of Stay: 12 days
- \* Averages Charges: \$55,470.00

Also clearly noted was an association between the patients' length of stay in the hospital and their injury severity. For the most patients with severe TBI's are were appropriately admitted to Level I and Level II Trauma Hospitals. The poster was well received by the members of the NESS and an abstract of the poster was published in the minutes of the meeting. This poster presentation is an important example of the technical assistance and research services offered by FST & EMS.

### Information for the following is available:

1. Responding To Residential Carbon Monoxide Incidents
2. Heating Systems and Snowbound Exits Safety Tips

If you would like a copy please contact Steve Dube, Fire Prevention Officer, Hudson Fire Department at 603-886-6021 or Kelly Teeter at the NH Fire Academy at 603-271-2661.

## NH INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT SUMMIT

Discussions at the 2003 and 2004 statewide trauma system conference identified a growing problem moving patients from one hospital to another. The problem seems widespread in the rural North Country, but does occur sporadically throughout NH.

The issue is an important one for the NH Trauma System. Murphy's Law causes trauma to occur at the worst time for helicopter availability, so some severely injured patients will continue to be stabilized at the nearest community hospital before being transported by ground to a Level I or II trauma facility. Difficulties arranging for ambulance transportation can significantly delay that process.

Additional factors complicating the picture include an increase in the number of medical transports due to Critical Access Hospital requirements, changing standards of care for acute coronary syndrome, and decreasing nursing resources for intensive care units. On the ambulance service

side are difficulties with reimbursement, serious financial challenges and difficulties recruiting and retaining staff.

The NH Bureau of EMS is leading efforts to resolve some of these issues. The first initiative has been to host a multidisciplinary stakeholder's summit to promote understanding of the multiple facets of the problem and to use group dynamics to brainstorm on potential solutions to the problem. Stakeholders included hospital administrators, ED leadership, EMS leaders and legislators. Kevin McGinnis, EMTP, former Chief of Maine EMS and a consultant on rural EMS issues to the National Association of State EMS Directors facilitated the meeting.

The summit was held on March 11, 2005 at the Cabot Motor Inn in Lancaster, NH. Results of the conference were not available at press time. For further information please refer to the Bureau website at <http://www.state.nh.us/safety/ems/>, or contact Clay Odell, Trauma Coordinator at 603-448-4927 or [codell@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:codell@safety.state.nh.us).



Scott Carrigan, President  
603-305-1282  
NFR5069@comcast.net

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

***Please mail this application to: FIOANH, c/o NHMA, P.O. Box 617, Concord, NH 03302-0617***

## MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) TRAINING INITIATIVE

### Spring 2005

The Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) is developing two programs involving mass casualty planning and MCI training for EMS providers. The planning and implementation efforts are in cooperation with the NH Department of Safety, Bureau of Emergency Management as part of the US HRSA/CDC Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program.

#### ***"Before Triage, Treatment and Transportation: MCI Plan Development":***

FST & EMS is coordinating a series of work sessions designed to assist local EMS Unit officials in developing written mass casualty plans for use at the community level.

Deputy Chief Steven Achilles, NREMT-P with the Portsmouth Fire Department, will be the lead faculty for the series. Chief Achilles is actively involved in the NH fire and emergency medical services, is a longtime NH EMS educator and actively involved in mass casualty planning on the local and regional level.

BEMS will be coordinating these sessions in each of the 5 EMS Regions. **For further information** please contact Bill Wood, FST & EMS Preparedness Coordinator at (603)-271-4615/NH: 1-888-827-5367 X 230 or at [bwood@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:bwood@safety.state.nh.us).

#### ***Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Training for Emergency Responders***

In conjunction with the MCI Plan Development series, FST & EMS has been actively involved with the revision of the New England Council for Emergency Medical Services' "Triage and Mass Casualty Scene Management" program and the updating of the course MCI Instructor curriculum.

The intent of the MCI provider program is to provide a New England-wide standardized approach to MCI management including EMS scene organization, patient triage, treatment and transport.

Two MCI Instructor Training Courses are being scheduled for this spring to re-establish a cadre of NH MCI Instructors. FST & EMS will then be coordinating an initial series of half-day EMS provider courses throughout the state. The intent of this initiative is to establish and maintain statewide basic MCI training.

MCI provider courses are being organized for summer and fall, after the Instructor training is complete.

**For further information** on MCI Instructor or Provider training, please contact Bill Wood, FST & EMS Preparedness Coordinator at (603)-271-4615/NH: 1-888-827-5367 X 230 or at [bwood@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:bwood@safety.state.nh.us).

## WANTED

### A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

#### To join the membership of the New England Association of Fire Marshals

We are seeking fire service personnel who have strong interest in fire safety codes and standards or who are or have been actively engaged in this profession.

We need active code oriented personnel to take part in a Life Safety Program that will be educational, enjoyable, and fulfilling. If you are interested in working with codes and standards to improve Life Safety, call, write, or email to express your interests and obtain an application.

#### **We need YOU!**

Gary S. Santoro, Secretary

44 Victory Lane • Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

Tel: 860-721-2806 • Fax: 860-721-2999

Email: [firemarshal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firemarshal@sbcglobal.net)

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